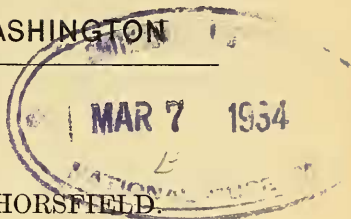


PROCEEDINGS
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NOTE ON THE GENUS *IRENA* HORSFIELD.

BY J. H. RILEY.¹

Oberholser² divided the genus *Irena* of authors into two: *Irena* Horsfield, of which he says the type is *Coracias puella* Latham (but this is debatable), and *Glauconympha* Oberholser, type *Irena cyanea* Begbie. Horsfield³ gave only one species, *Irena puella* "mihi," and then quotes *Coracias puella* Latham. If he had stopped at this point, there is no doubt that *Coracias puella* Latham would be the type of *Irena* Horsfield, but he gave a description of his *Irena puella*, founded on a Javan specimen. This later proved not to be *Coracias puella* Latham and was named *Irena turcosa* Walden.⁴ Therefore, the type of *Irena* Horsfield is *Irena puella* Horsfield (not *Coracias puella* Latham), which equals *Irena turcosa* Walden, and Sharpe⁵ was right in stating the type of the genus to be the latter. This is unimportant, since I agree with Stuart Baker⁶ in regarding *Irena puella* and *Irena cyanea* as not only congeneric but conspecific. Therefore, *Glauconympha* Oberholser becomes a synonym of *Irena* Horsfield.

The genus *Irena*, however, as given in Sharpe's Hand-List, vol. 3, 1901, pp. 308-309, naturally divides into two sections, for the first of which I propose

Irenella, gen. nov.

Type, *Irena cyanogastra* Vigors. Upper and under tail-coverts short, less than half the length of tail, the mantle with normal feathers, the sexes similar; and

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²Journ. Wash. Acad. Sci., vol. 7, 1917, p. 539.

³Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond., vol. 13, 1821, p. 153.

⁴Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., (4), vol. 5, 1870, p. 417.

⁵Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., vol. 6, 1881, p. 174.

⁶Fauna Brit. India, Birds, vol. 3, 2d ed., 1926, p. 1.

Irena Horsfield.

Type, *Irena puella* Horsfield (*Irena turcosa* Walden). The males with prolonged upper and under tail-coverts, more than half the length of tail, the mantle with specialized, glossy, wax-like feathers, the sexes unlike.

The first contains only the first three names in Sharpe's list, cited above, and is confined to the Philippines; the second comprises the remainder of the species, of wider distribution, from South India to the Malay Peninsula, Java, Borneo, Sumatra, Palawan, and neighboring islands. This is a more logical arrangement, both from a distributional and structural standpoint than that proposed by Dr. Oberholser.

Irena tweeddalii Sharpe, of Balabac, Palawan, and Calamianes, is a somewhat aberrant member of the genus *Irena*, as here set forth. The upper tail-coverts are shorter than half the length of the tail, but the other characters hold, and the style of coloration agrees with the type of the genus. Palawan, Balabac, and Calamianes in their faunal affinities are Bornean, rather than Philippine.